

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 3, 2014

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
FOREIGN RELATIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
SMALL BUSINESS AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid,

I know you share my disgust with the recent revelations at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the shameful way in which a few employees mistreated America's heroes.

The problem is so pervasive in the VA that an internal audit found that wait times for veterans' appointments were falsified and manipulated at 64% of VA health facilities.

As the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, you and you alone control what legislation is brought before the Senate for a vote. In this important role, you can make a vital difference in the reforms that are needed to improve the quality of care our nation's heroes receive.

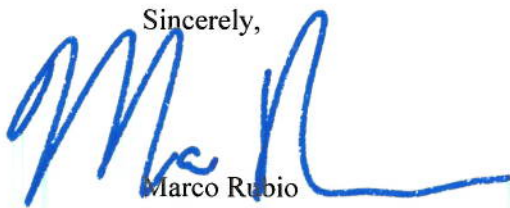
As you know, the House of Representatives recently passed the common sense and bi-partisan *S. 2013 The VA Management and Accountability Act of 2014* with the support of 165 Democrats. That legislation is now before the Senate for consideration and is sponsored by ten Senate Democrats, including the Senators from Arkansas, California, Florida, Louisiana, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, North Carolina and Virginia. Their backing means there is currently a strong bi-partisan support for this legislation which would bring accountability to VA and empower the leadership therein to make the same hiring and firing decisions you enjoy as a United States Senator with your own staff.

This legislation alone will not solve all the problems at the VA. Problems which, to be fair, existed before President Obama took office. But this legislation will take an important step forward in helping reform this broken government institution. It might also help restore some faith in the Senate's ability to achieve even incremental reform to a government that too many Americans believe is no longer capable of even the most basic functions.

Therefore, I respectfully request that you bring this legislation to the Senate floor as quickly as possible for an up or down vote. This legislation is an important first step that will bring needed accountability to the VA. Our veterans have given a great deal to our nation and they deserve to see their elected representatives in the U.S. Senate vote on this very important piece of legislation.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator